



National Commission
on Libraries and Information Science

MINUTES
April 17 and 18, 1985
Washington, D.C.

Members Present: Gordon M. Ambach; Patricia Barbour; Charles Benton; Daniel H. Carter; Daniel W. Casey; Wanda L. Forbes; Paulette H. Holahan; John E. Juergensmeyer; Byron Leeds; Bessie B. Moore; Jerald C. Newman; Margaret Phelan; William J. Welsh; Julia Li Wu; and Elinor M. Hashim, Presiding

Former Members Present: Andrew A. Aines; Clara Jones; Catherine Scott; Philip Sprague; and Margaret Warden

Staff Present: Toni Carbo Bearman, Executive Director; Sarah G. Bishop, Dorothy P. Gray; Marti Quigley (Wednesday, April 17); Diane Y. Rafferty; Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar; Gerald J. Sophar; Jane D. Thomas (Thursday, April 18); Carl C. Thompson; Christina Carr Young; and Barbara Lee Whiteleather, Recording Secretary

Guests Present: Edward Maxfield Broome, The Library Association, London, England; Donald J. Egner, DOD U.S. Army Human Engineering Laboratory; June Eiselstein, Mary H. Weir Public Library; Robert Wedgeworth, American Library Association; Alphonse F. Trezza, School of Library and Information Studies, Florida State University, and former NCLIS Executive Director; Bridget L. Lamont, Illinois State Library; Wayne H. Johnson, Wyoming State Library; Linda Resnik, American Society for Information Science; Eileen D. Cooke, American Library Association, Washington Office; William Asp, Minnesota State Library; Peyton R. Neal, PRN Associates; Jule Shipman, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; Alexander Crary, Senator Pell's Office; Joseph Shubert, New York State Library; Clarence Coffindaffer, South Dakota State Library; Agnes M. Griffen, Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries, Maryland; Deanna Marcum, Council on Library Resources; Jaia Barrett, Association of Research Libraries; Philip Rosenberg, Philip Rosenberg and Associates; Robert Willard, Information Industry Association; Lois Pearson, American Libraries, American Library Association

Thursday, April 18, 1985

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

The Commissioners met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Miss Hashim reported that as a result of this meeting, the following three actions were taken:

- (1) Approved the Performance Appraisal System for the Executive Director, as amended by the Office of Personnel Management;
- (2) Pending the completion of a new Performance Agreement for the Executive Director, a new element with three objectives was added to the current Performance Agreement; and
- (3) Empowered the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the entire Commission with regard to approving a new Performance Agreement for the Executive Director for the remainder of FY 1985.

CHAIRMAN'S
OPENING
REMARKS

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The guests and visitors were welcomed by the Chairman on behalf of Members of the Commission and were asked to introduce themselves. The Commission was especially pleased that five of its former Commissioners were present.

New Members Welcomed - Nominees Margaret Phelan, Wanda L. Forbes, Patricia Barbour, and Daniel W. Casey, were confirmed by the Senate on March 28, 1985, and Daniel W. Carter, on April 1, 1985, as Members of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. The Commissioners were welcomed by the Chairman on behalf of the other Members of the Commission.

New Position - Miss Hashim was recently appointed Program Director for Special Libraries in the Office of Library Planning at OCLC Online Library Computer Center, Dublin, Ohio.

Reauthorization of HEA - Miss Hashim announced that Congressmen William D. Ford and E. Thomas Coleman have invited the Commission to provide comments in preparation for the hearing process for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Commissioner Ambach volunteered to work with staff in preparing the response, due April 30, 1985.

NCLIS Archive - The University of Michigan has approached the Commission and offered to become the repository for the Commission's non-record and personal papers. In considering this request, the staff is currently gathering information about other institutions that might serve as a private repository. In response to our letter of inquiry, Robert M. Warner, Archivist of the United States, noted that the University of Illinois holds ALA archives, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin holds the Society of American Archivists archives, and the University of Michigan holds papers of several prominent bibliophiles. The staff will continue to look for the appropriate repository for archival materials and to keep the Commission informed.

Staff Change - Effective June 21, 1985, Carl C. Thompson, NCLIS Administrative Officer, will begin a new position with Promotion Planning, Inc., a Philadelphia-based firm. Mr. Thompson has been appointed Regional Director for Conference Planning. [Note - See resolution passed the following day.]

Mrs. Bush Cancels Appearance - Mrs. George Bush had accepted an invitation to attend the meeting to present remarks on libraries and literacy. Mrs. Bush apologized for having to cancel her appearance at the last moment and asked to be invited to a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Mr. Juergensmeyer noted that the Attachment II was not accurately identified. Attachment II should have been the CLR statement on access to information for teaching and scholarship, not the Program Outline of CLR.

It was MOVED by Gordon Ambach, seconded by John Juergensmeyer, to approve the Minutes of the January 17-18, 1985, meeting, with the correct attachment.

Page 14, 4th paragraph, now reads: In response to a CLR statement on access to information for teaching and scholarship, the Commission adopted a resolution, moved by Gordon Ambach, and seconded by Charles Benton (Attachment III).

The motion was passed unanimously.

IFLA
INFORMATION
CENTER

Mr. Juergensmeyer reported for the NCLIS IFLA 1985 Committee that plans for the IFLA information center are "as complete as can be." The design plan for the center -- which was drawn up by Fred Goodman of PortaStructures -- was displayed for the Commissioners' review at the meeting. The Commissioners received the outline of the NCLIS A/V presentation script and gave their comments to Dorothy Gray and Randy Strothman, a consultant from the University of Pittsburgh, Center for Instructional Resources. The tentative title for the presentation is, "NCLIS...Building Partnerships for Our Future;" however, Commissioners were urged to suggest other titles. Messrs. Ambach and Casey reminded Mr. Strothman that the script should be tailored for the international audience. The Committee will discuss the various ideas and suggestions presented by the Commissioners, and Mr. Juergensmeyer urged them to give additional comments to the Committee.

On behalf of Dr. Cuadra, Mr. Welsh asked if equipment other than AT&T Bell Laboratories is being used in the center. Dr. Bearman answered that AT&T has donated a substantial portion of the equipment, software, and considerable staff time, and equipment from other companies is also being used. Other contributors to the center to date include Defense Technical Information Center, U.S. Department of Defense; DIALOG Information Services, Inc.; Information Access Corporation; OCLC Inc.; The International Thomson Company; Porta-Structures Industries; H.W. Wilson Company; and University Microfilms International.

E. MAXFIELD
BROOME
THE LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

Edward Maxfield (Max) Broome, County Librarian, Hertfordshire County Council, representing The Library Association of London, England, was invited to discuss the Association and library and information activities within the United Kingdom. Mr. Broome is visiting the U.S. to gather information about the Commission and other library/information organizations in Washington and Chicago.

As County Librarian, Mr. Broome explained that the library has the responsibility for maintaining education support services to the schools on a contract basis. The libraries receive 1.5% of the county's budget, employ a staff of 500, and house 2.5 million books. Mr. Broome mentioned an Advisory Committee study entitled, "Setting Up Public Lending Right (PLR)," and agreed to provide copies to the Commission. He reported that the librarians fought PLR very strongly; however, the impact on libraries is less than feared, and the authors are now satisfied.

1:45 p.m.

NCLIS/DOD
LITERACY
PROJECT

In preparation for the presentation on the joint NCLIS/DOD (U.S. Army Human Engineering Laboratory) Literacy Project, Mrs. Young showed a portion of a video-tape produced for the Federal Employee Literacy Training Program (FELT) -- one of the President's initiatives designed to focus national attention on the promotion of adult literacy and to enhance existing literacy programs. In this tape, President Reagan asked that libraries be involved in literacy education.

Donald Egner, Chief, U.S. Army Human Engineering Laboratory (AHEL), provided the Commissioners with an overview of the joint NCLIS/AHEL "Reading Skill Improvement Project." He pointed out that 20% of all adults are functionally illiterate; referred to the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Act of 1980, which encourages sharing of research developed by the military; presented a brief history of the NCLIS-initiated project; and described the "Wisher program" used in the project. This Navy-developed micro-computer based reading program uses the principles of generative instruction.

June Eiselstein, Director, Mary H. Weir Public Library, Weirton, West Virginia, presented a demonstration of the Improved Reading Skill Program. (The Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore is the other test site location.) Former Commissioner Clara Jones stated there is a definite advantage to teaching in a library setting because the functionally illiterate adult is embarrassed to go back to the school and is more comfortable learning in a library.

Dr. Bearman suggested that the Public Affairs Committee consider promoting this project which, hopefully, would encourage other groups to adopt this literacy training technique.

This project will be a future agenda item, pending the final reports of the two test sites (Baltimore and West Virginia). Dr. Moore stated, "This is one of the things that would not have happened without the National Commission. It is a seed process which we engendered."

SPECIAL
TELEVISION
EVENT

Commissioner Benton invited the Commissioners and staff to attend a "first of a kind" special television program on WETA public television, channel 26, at 8:00 p.m. The program, "The Congress: Is it Working" will be a live broadcast of a panel discussion on various topics with questions coming from 100 colleges and universities via teleconferencing. Panel participants include Senators Cranston and Simpson, Representatives Gingrich and Gray, Ralph Nader, and Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute. They will discuss issues concerning the federal budget, the arms race, agriculture, education and jobs, and Central America.

3:30 p.m.
1989
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

William Asp, Minnesota State Librarian and Chair, Preliminary Conference Design Group for the 1989 National Conference, was invited to summarize the meeting of his group held during the lunch recess. Mr. Asp thanked the Commission for the resolution calling for preparations for a 1989 national conference and for the appointment of the Preliminary Conference Design Group.

The Group determined that the most effective means for accomplishing its charge was to create subcommittees. They are:

- (1) Appointments to Advisory Committee - charged with recommending the kinds of appointments which should be made by the President, Senate, House, and NCLIS to the 28-member Advisory Committee (National Conference Committee). Members are: Wayne Johnson, Chair; Barbara Cooper; Lotsee Smith; and Margaret Phelan;
- (2) Conference Scope, Focus and Financing - charged with recommending a preliminary design for the conference including its scope and focus, and alternatives for financing the conference. Members are: Bruce Daniels, Chair; Daniel Carter; Patricia Klinck; Bridget Lamont; Jule Shipman; Joseph Shubert; and Amanda Williams.

(3) Planning Timeline - charged with identifying events and dates leading to the conference. Members are: Gordon Ambach, Chair; Charles Benton; Byron Leeds.

The Group plans to work and consult with current and former NCLIS Members, former Members of the White House Advisory Committee and Staff, representatives of the major national library and information services associations, leadership of the Senate and the House, and the Executive Office of the President.

Alexander Cray, representing Senator Claiborne Pell, attended the Commission meeting to deliver copies of the Joint Resolution "authorizing and requesting the President to call a White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held not later than 1989." Under Sec. 3(a) Direction by Commission, it specifically states, "The Conference shall be planned and conducted under the direction of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science." In addition, the legislation calls for the Chairman of the Commission to serve as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

The Group will prepare a progress report for the August Commission meeting.

INFORMATION FOR GOVERNANCE

The Commissioners received the draft #3, NCLIS Action Plan on Information for Local Governance, as revised by Messrs. Ambach and Juergensmeyer.

MOTIONS

It was MOVED by Gordon Ambach, seconded by John Juergensmeyer, to adopt Draft #3 of the NCLIS Action Plan on Information for Local Governance. Mr. Ambach accepted an amendment by Daniel Carter to delete item #2 on page 2.

The following amendment to the Action Plan at page 2, paragraph 2, was MOVED by Gordon Ambach, seconded by John Juergensmeyer:

Mr. Carter asked if there is a particular program that the staff feels is not quite 'on target.' Dr. Bearman replied that the staff was particularly concerned about its program, "Acquiring and Using Information." In this effort, the staff has decided to call upon the President-Elect of the American Association of School Librarians and other experts for advice on how the Commission should approach the subject.

Dr. Bearman reported that at the request of the Department of State, staff provided a list of recommended projects from the Alternatives to UNESCO Programs developed last year to be supported by \$250,000 proposed in the Administration's budget for FY 1986. Also at the Department's request, staff prepared a briefing document for Assistant Secretary Newell to use at a congressional hearing. Dr. Bearman explained that if funds are appropriated for FY 1986, some of the funds may be transferred through the Commission for payment of U.S. dues to international organizations or to support specific projects. Dr. Bearman will keep the Commissioners informed of work with the State Department.

OMB
CIRCULAR

OMB has requested comments on a draft circular that is intended to provide a general policy framework for management of federal information resources. The Circular implements provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 as well as other statutes, Executive Orders, and policies concerning general information policy, information technology, privacy and maintenance of federal records. In preparation for drafting a response, Dr. Bearman has sought the opinions of associations (including the American Library Association and the Information Industry Association) and individuals. The response will be sent to Members for their comment and advice. OMB has requested that comments be sent by May 14, 1985.

NABRIN

During the January 1985 Commission meeting, the Commissioners: (1) received a briefing on the findings of the National Advisory Board on Rural Information Needs (NABRIN) Planning Committee, including the need for such a board and an outline of the proposed NABRIN Charter; (2) passed a resolution endorsing and supporting the principle and concept of NABRIN; and (3) indicated a desire for further involvement in NABRIN after its establishment.

At the April 1985 meeting, the Commissioners received the final report of the NABRIN Planning Committee. The proposed charter would establish a 20-member NABRIN in U.S.D.A. to advise and assist the Secretary of Agriculture in focusing national attention on rural information needs, and in the development of policies, strategies and action programs that will be responsive to these needs. It also calls for an NCLIS representative to serve as the permanent Vice Chairman of NABRIN.

Commissioners Carter and Juergensmeyer and former Commissioner Warden expressed their enthusiasm for the NABRIN program and praised the Commission for its involvement in what they called a "footprint in time."

NABRIN
MOTION

It was MOVED by John Juergensmeyer, seconded by Daniel Casey, that the Commission accept and endorse the final report of the National Advisory Board on Rural Information Needs (NABRIN) Planning Committee and the proposed NABRIN charter; that the report and charter be forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture with a recommendation that a NABRIN be established within the United States Department of Agriculture at the earliest opportunity; and to dissolve the NABRIN Planning Committee with thanks for its work and the result of its effort.

The motion was passed unanimously.

**THE ROLE
OF FEES**

The Commissioners received the final draft of "The Role of Fees in Supporting Library and Information Services" written with support from the Council on Library Resources. The paper was prepared by Philip Rosenberg under contract to the Commission and the guidance of a Review Panel.

**FEES
MOTION**

It was MOVED by Paulette Holahan, seconded by Gordon Ambach, to adopt the following motion on "The Role of Fees In Supporting Library and Information Services in Public and Academic Libraries":

The NCLIS hereby (1) accepts the report on "The Role of Fees in Supporting Library and Information Services in Public and Academic Libraries; (2) commends the review panel members for their exceptional effort and requests that the panel be available to consider an expanded charge relative to the fee issue; (3) plans to publish and disseminate the report widely and requests interested parties to comment in a timely manner to help inform the NCLIS Program Review Committee on its charges as set forth in (5) below; (4) encourages discussion of the fee issue in the library and information community; and (5) directs the NCLIS Program Review Committee to prepare plans for FY 1986 and FY 1987 activities of the Commission in response to this report, including additional research or studies, a continuing charge for the Review Panel, and procedures for hearings and additional requests of the Commission. Such plans are to be presented by the Committee to the Commission for review and action at the August 1985 meeting.

The motion was passed unanimously.

**TOPICS
AUGUST
MEETING**

The Commissioners agreed that topics for the August 19-20 meeting would include:

--IFLA - exhibit tour; participation in plenary session. (The official opening of exhibits is on Sunday evening.)

--Review plans for 1989 national conference on library and information services;

--Progress report, NCLIS FY 1985 programs (third quarter); and

--Finalize review of NCLIS FY 1986 and 1987 programs, including Information for Governance, and Role of Fees in Supporting Library and Information Services in Public and Academic Libraries.

The Chairman reminded Members that she should be advised of proposed motions at least one month in advance of the meeting.

During the discussion of where and when to hold committee meetings, Miss Hashim suggested that the committee chairmen work with the staff liaisons to schedule meetings. At the Chairman's suggestion, the Program Review Committee will meet in June to discuss programs and priorities for fiscal years 1986 and 1987.

Since the IFLA conference will be taking place at the same time as the next Commission meeting, Mrs. Wu suggested that the Commission invite an international visitor to speak, and Margaret Winstroom, Secretary General, IFLA Secretariat, was suggested.

1986 MEETING DATES

Commissioners Juergensmeyer and Wu urged the Chairman to consider holding meetings on the West Coast to create greater visibility for the Commission. Miss Hashim reminded the Commissioners of the additional cost of holding meetings away from the Washington area. The Commissioners agreed to the following meeting dates for calendar year 1986:

February 6 and 7 (Thursday and Friday);

April 9 and 10 (Wednesday and Thursday);

August 7 and 8 (Thursday and Friday); and,

November 6 and 7 (Thursday and Friday)

Locations for the meetings are yet to be determined.

CARL C.
THOMPSON
RESOLUTION

The Chairman announced with regret that Carl C. Thompson is resigning as Administrative Officer effective June 21, 1985.

The following resolution was introduced by Dr. Moore and adopted by the entire Commission:

WHEREAS, Carl C. Thompson, a valued member of the staff of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) has submitted his resignation after eleven years, effective June 21, 1985, and

WHEREAS, Carl C. Thompson has arranged the meetings of NCLIS for these 44 interminable months, and

WHEREAS, he has labored with our sketchily prepared expense accounts, and until recently, our paychecks, for supposedly rendered services, and

WHEREAS, he has performed these duties with dispatch and sometimes thinly veiled annoyance, nevertheless with sober thought,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Members of the Commission commend Carl C. Thompson for his willing acceptance of our individual frailties and wish him well in his new position which will provide more and higher quality shekels for good and perhaps occasional riotous living; with serious intent, we do now thank him for his thoughtful, efficient, and loyal service to us from July 1, 1974 to June 21, 1985.

God Speed.

TAB A



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

AUG 8 1985

Ms. Elinor M. Hashim
Chairman, National Commission on
Libraries and Information Science
GSA Building
7th & D Streets, S.W., Suite 3122
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Ms. Hashim:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Commission, and the members of the Planning Committee for the National Advisory Board on Rural Information Needs (NABRIN) for the thought and effort you have put into developing the NABRIN report. Your recommendation that NABRIN be established within the USDA culminates years of planning and working to find the best ways to meet the information needs of rural residents and communities. I am proud that USDA staff members have played such key roles in this process, and I fully intend to see that the essence of the report is carried out.

To implement plans for meeting rural information needs effectively, both an organizational structure and resources must be available. The National Agricultural Library (NAL) has a service delivery structure already in place. The Food, Nutrition and Human Ecology Staff of NAL is charged with the responsibility of serving the rural population, and is headed by a person who served on the NABRIN Planning Committee.

Joe Howard, Director of the NAL, is deeply interested in this area of service and is fully committed to seeing that it receives full and appropriate attention by the NAL. I am asking him to coordinate the NAL's activities in this area with your staff.

I sincerely believe this approach provides the greatest likelihood of prompt and effective action to reach the goals we share for improving rural information service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Block".

Rec'd 13, 1985

APPROPRIA-
TIONS
HEARINGS

In preparation for the House Appropriations hearings scheduled for the afternoon, Commissioners received a listing, including photographs, of the Members of the House Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

1:30 p.m.
NCLIS
RECEPTION

On Wednesday evening, NCLIS held a reception to honor former NCLIS Commissioners. The reception was held at the Library of Congress and hosted by the Maxima Corporation and the Information Industry Association. Miss Hashim asked that the record show that she was remiss for not publicly thanking Mr. Welsh during the reception for providing the perfect setting. Miss Hashim apologized and expressed appreciation to Mr. Welsh and the staff of the Library of Congress for their substantial contributions to the reception.

ROBERT
WEDGEWORTH

Miss Hashim introduced Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director of the American Library Association, as "the most articulate spokesman the library profession has ever known." Miss Hashim presented Mr. Wedgeworth with the following resolution adopted by the Members of the Commission:

WHEREAS, under the Directorship of Robert L. Wedgeworth, the American Library Association (ALA) has grown, flourished, and received national acclaim for its promotion of libraries and librarianship, and

WHEREAS, he has made major contributions to the field as an expert librarian and dynamic leader, and

WHEREAS, he has been a leading spokesman for the U.S. library and information community in international activities and programs, and

WHEREAS, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) has enjoyed working with an individual of such high standards, integrity, and outstanding personal qualities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science extends its appreciation to Robert Wedgeworth -- known as both the "national communicator of library interests" and as "a great ambassador for libraries and librarians" -- for his extensive efforts on behalf of the U.S. library and information community; compliments him for his outstanding leadership and contributions; and extends its very best wishes to him in his future endeavors.

Mr. Wedgeworth said that he asked for the opportunity to visit with the Commission before leaving the post of ALA Executive Director. See Attachment I for a summary of his remarks.

FORMER
MEMBERS'
COMMENTS

Margaret Warden - Mrs. Warden read from a prepared statement, which she asked be made part of the official minutes. See Attachment II.

Catherine Scott - Miss Scott thanked everyone for recognizing and honoring the former Commissioners and for the benefit of addressing the group as a special librarian. She urged, "Protect the book and preserve the written word of the past." She reminded the Members of former Commissioner Joseph Becker's saying, "Who wants to climb into bed with a computer -- a book is so much better." Miss Scott mentioned that she is concerned with the drop in enrollment in library schools.

Philip Sprague - Mr. Sprague stated he considers it an honor to have served as a Member of the National Commission and urged others, "Being a Commissioner deserves the best you can give it; take your work very seriously and don't be afraid to take risks. In the immortal words of Jimmy Durante, 'Don't raise the bridge; lower the river.'"

The meeting was concluded at 2:15 p.m., to enable Commissioners to attend the House Appropriations hearings.

June 25, 1985

ATTACHMENT I

SUMMARY
PRESENTATION BY
ROBERT WEDGEWORTH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BEFORE THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

April 18, 1985

Mr. Wedgeworth presented a "thumbnail" sketch of the American Library Association (ALA), pointing out that for the first time in its history ALA membership exceeds 40,000. The Association's headquarters are in Chicago, Illinois, with an office in Washington, D.C., and an installation in Middletown, Connecticut, where Choice, the reviewing journal for academic libraries, is published. In addition, ALA is very proud of its new electronic mail system, which allows access between the Chicago and Washington offices. "ALA remains healthy, vibrant and involved," he said.

ALA Activities - Two major ALA activities in 1984 include producing "Realities," the response to "A Nation at Risk," and concern for the issue of professionalism. Because the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is considering lower entry-level grades for librarians with less than a two-year MLS degree, ALA's Steering Committee on Standards is studying the whole matter of downgrading professionals with MLS degrees. With regard to this proposed downgrading, he urged the Commission's awareness of the uncertainties that librarians now feel for support of their programs.

Currently, ALA is in the middle of a very exciting three-year project to re-establish reading and discussion groups in public libraries. In a joint program with the National Endowment for the Humanities, ALA is sponsoring reading discussion group projects in public libraries across the nation. There is a very strong interest in the old fashioned reading discussion groups, and ALA is taking advantage of this situation to show how libraries can stimulate community interaction.

ALA has been concerned for some time that there are more than 27 million adult functional illiterates in the United States. The Coalition for Literacy and its successful national Advertising Council campaign alerts both volunteers and persons needing information on local literacy programs and resources. By dialing a national toll-free hot line, persons will be placed in touch with appropriate local agencies.

International Concerns - The most significant activity ALA will be carrying out within the next several months is the 1985 meeting of International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). This will be the first time that the full IFLA has met in the U.S. outside the East Coast. There was a very small meeting in the U.S. in 1933 during the tenure of the only American ever to serve as president of IFLA -- William Warner Bishop, then Librarian, University of Michigan.

Mr. Wedgeworth expressed his appreciation to NCLIS for responding to his request to serve as Secretariat for the U.S. National Committee for the UNESCO PGI, and for sponsoring the IFLA information center exhibit, which he considers the key component of the exhibits. "This is what foreign librarians look forward to when they come to our country; they like to see demonstrations of products and services and to view U.S. library and information services." Approximately 2,500 participants will be at the IFLA August meeting, with 60% from North America, Canada, and the U.S.

ALA is hoping for the largest contingent of Latin American and Caribbean librarians ever in attendance at an international meeting. In all probability, this group is the least represented at international meetings. In an effort to stimulate the participation of this group of librarians, full simultaneous translation in Spanish is being provided. Mr. Wedgeworth noted that very little time is spent in training librarians in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In citing one example of what can be done to help our colleagues in other countries, Mr. Wedgeworth reported that in most parts of the world today, most libraries cannot afford to buy U.S. information products and services. These products and services are not only expensive but are very difficult to import, and as a result, there is a barrier for extending U.S. influence in those countries. For example, if the national librarian of Argentina wanted to spend \$500 on important U.S. scientific and technical books, he would have to get at the end of a long line of other priority needs in order to get the needed \$500 in foreign currency. Another fact is that publishers have many materials they are willing to give to other countries, but the Internal Revenue Service is so restrictive, that publishers are not encouraged to make such gifts. The recently-completed USIA Task Force report highlights an expanded books programs as a new initiative.

ALA Commission - Of prime importance to the Commission will be the final report of the ALA Commission on Freedom and Equality of Access to Information, which will be distributed in final draft at the ALA Annual Conference. The report focuses on: (1) the changing technological environment for libraries; (2) intellectual property and information technology; (3) the human mediation role as a basic component for advanced information services; and (4) new bases for information policies. "This is one of the most important reports that ALA has issued in the last 12 years," he said.

NCLIS - "If we didn't have a National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, we would have to invent one," Mr. Wedgeworth stated. A major problem has been defining the domain of NCLIS. This problem has come about, in many cases, by looking at questions like "libraries vs. the information industry," and "the public sector vs. the private sector." Another problem facing NCLIS is consistent and adequate funding that requires the articulation of a program and the continuing provision of an answer to the question, "Why is the National Commission necessary?"

Mr. Wedgeworth presented the following advice to the Commission. NCLIS should build from the constituency that has provided the most consistent, continual, and sustained support for the National Commission -- the library community. This does not mean that NCLIS should be perceived as speaking for the library community -- the Commission's name was not an accident. In carrying out its role, NCLIS needs to formulate a strong base of information upon which to provide its advice and recommendations to the Administration and to the Congress. This is a generic problem in our field. Information is needed for determining how much money is spent for certain categories or programs or how many libraries of certain types there are. It is the Commission's responsibility -- not necessarily to do that work -- but to be sure that there is some priority given to the accomplishment of an information base.

There are some threats posed by certain administrative actions to the health of the federal library system, which are not clearly being recognized because we tend to talk about whether we want to spend money or save money. The Commission may want to change the context of those kinds of questions. Specifically, it may be time for somebody to take a look at the entire federal library system -- those nameless federal libraries that exist in hundreds and hundreds of agencies that serve the needs of those agencies and to consider whether there is a way to make the provision of those services more cost effective.

Because of its limited resources, Mr. Wedgeworth feels there is not much NCLIS can do about adult literacy. However, there is another area that is also extremely important. School children across the nation are not reading at their grade level and are not improving during the school day. Libraries in most of these communities are open at night and on weekends, and there is no coordination for literacy in this area. The Montreal Public Library neighborhood, which has a large foreign population, has in its branch a language laboratory. The lab is open where any adult or child can go for self-instructional material, available to help teach them the national language of the country. This is something very appropriate for our nation's public libraries, especially in the urban centers that deal with so many immigrant populations.

ALA is presently in the middle of a major project of reviewing accreditation of library education programs. The Commission should watch very carefully for the results of this program, which involves the major information societies and associations. As a result of this project, there will be a new basis for library and information science education in the United States.

Finally, Mr. Wedgeworth recommended that the Commission consider publishing, at least yearly, an assessment report on the health of library and information science in the nation. He stressed that this type of report would be a general advisory report, which could include recommendations and which could be provided to the Congress and the Administration. There is no one providing this kind of information at present, he said. The Commission's Public Affairs Committee agreed to discuss Mr. Wedgeworth's provocative idea for a "State of the Arts" report.

ATTACHMENT II

COMMENTS
FORMER COMMISSIONER MARGARET WARDEN
BEFORE THE
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

April 18, 1985

My interest in the Commission has existed since its birth. I was one of the 16 people who went to see President Nixon when the American Library Trustee Association proposed a White House Conference.

For the last nine years I have enjoyed working with the Commission and working on the Commission. In 1975 I was appointed on the committee to plan a White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS), serving on the public relations committee. At the conference I headed the Rules and Resolutions Committee and had the pleasure of introducing Ralph Nader to the convention.

The funding for the conference was set at \$3-1/2 million but it was not being funded. Eileen Cooke of the ALA Washington Office called me to see if I could get to Senator Mike Mansfield, Montana, who was Majority Leader of the Senate and on the Appropriations Committee and see if it could be inserted in the House and Senate Appropriations Conference Committee.

When I talked to Mike, he promised to call me that night since the committee was meeting that day. He did and said that the committee promised to put in funding for the WHCLIS if the President would request the funds in the next year's budget. President Ford did and the funds were made available the following year for the WHCLIS.

In 1979 I was named to NCLIS by President Carter for a term until 1984. I am delighted that the members who were selected have finally been confirmed. It is fitting and proper that in 1985 there are plans for a second White House conference in 1989.

So much has been accomplished by the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Taskforce (WHCLIST) in the last five years, that the goals and plans at the second White House Conference should take the library and information services into the 21st century.

I have worked closely with Members of Congress for the last nine years on projects the Commission has been interested in. There is a need to continually inform these members of the needs of libraries and information services. Because there is a new group of senators and congressmen every two years, this is a never-ending task. Since 1964 I have testified before Congress and developed a rapport with them on these matters.

For the last five years, I have worked on improvement for rural programs and the need for everyone, no matter how rural the area in which they live, to have services that will make their lives most productive and better. The rural program, NABRIN, is one of those great targets of opportunity that Bessie Moore has always talked about. I am delighted that NCLIS is realizing this and passed the resolution to implement better rural services.

I wish you well and will continue to do anything I can to help where I can.

June 25, 1985